

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ETF:GGAY:PCS

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TO USDEL AQABA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034257

TOSEC 266

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET US

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 24, FEB. 14, 1975 0600

HOURS (EST)

1. GUNFIRE ERUPTED BRIEFLY IN ASMARA AT 1800Z SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE BROADCAST OF A BITTER ATTACK BY THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELF, OSMAN SALEH SABBI. THE STATEMENT DESCRIBED SABBI AS "THE LEADER OF THE BANDITS" AND ACCUSED HIM OF ENRICHING HIMSELF AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ERITREAN PEOPLE.
2. NAVCOMUNIT HAS RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED INSTRUCTIONS TO MEET WITH LOCAL POWER AUTHORITIES (ELPA) TO DISCUSS PROVISION OF POWER TO ASMARA, TRAINING OF ELPA PERSONNEL AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PA AND E PERSONNEL.
3. INFORMAL CONVERSATION OF EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELLOR WITH MOD AYALEW MANDEFRO ELICITED THE COMMENT THAT LIBERAL OFFERS ON ERITREA'S FUTURE EXTENDED BY THE DIRG HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE INSURGENTS. ACCORDINGLY "WE SHALL HAVE TO FIGHT TO PRESERVE ETHIOPIA'S UNITY TO THE LAST MAN AND THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD." THE SUDANESE EMISSARY HAD BROUGHT NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND
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SUDAN IS MOVING TOWARD SUPPORT OF THE INSURGENTS, PER-

MITTING ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO CROSS THEIR BORDER INTO
ERITREA.

4. ALLEGED ELF TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEEN IN
ADDIS ABABA. DATT REPORTED SPECULATION THAT IF
ERITREAN GRIEVANCES ARE BROUGHT BEFORE OAU COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS, THE TERRORISTS WILL NOT ACT; IF THE SUBJECT
IS DEFERRED BY OAU THE TERRORISTS WILL ACT TO DEMONSTRATE
THE WEAKNESS OF THE ETHIOPIAN SECURITY FORCES. INGERSOLL

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